

Residential Kitchens: Required Receptacle Outlets Information Sheet

Code is taken from the 2008 National Energy Code (NEC).

Receptacles installed in a kitchen to serve countertop surfaces shall be supplied by not fewer than two small-appliance branch circuits, either or both of which shall also be permitted to supply receptacle outlets in the same kitchen and in other rooms specified in 210.52(B)(1). Additional small-appliance branch circuits shall be permitted to supply receptacle outlets in the kitchen and other rooms specified in 210.52(B)(1). No small-appliance branch circuit shall serve more than one kitchen.

(C) **Countertops.** In kitchens, pantries, breakfast rooms, dining rooms, and similar areas of dwelling units, receptacle outlets for countertop spaces shall be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(1) through (C)(5).

Where a range, counter-mounted cooking unit, or sink is installed in an island or peninsular countertop and the width of the countertop behind the range, counter-mounted cooking unit, or sink is less than 300 mm (12 inches), the range, counter-mounted cooking unit, or sink is considered to divide the countertop space into two separate countertop spaces as defined in 210.52(C)(4). Each separate countertop space shall comply with the applicable requirements in 210.52(C).

(1) **Wall Countertop Spaces.** A receptacle outlet shall be installed at each wall countertop space that is 300 mm (12 inches) or wider. Receptacle outlets shall be installed so that no point along the wall line is more than 600 mm (24 inches) measured horizontally from a receptacle outlet in that space. Must be GFI protected and Tamper Resistant.

Exception: Receptacle outlets shall not be required on a wall directly behind a range, counter-mounted cooking unit, or sink in the installation described in Figure 210.52(C)(1).

(2) **Island Countertop Spaces.** At least one receptacle shall be installed at each island countertop space with a long dimension of 600 mm (24 inches) or greater and a **short dimension of 300 mm (12 inches) or greater.**

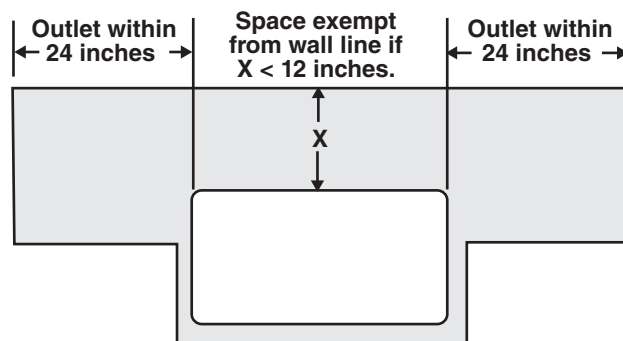
(3) **Peninsular Countertop Spaces.** At least one receptacle outlet shall be installed at each peninsular countertop space with a long dimension of 600 mm (24 inches) or greater and a short dimension of 300 mm (12 inches) or greater. A peninsular countertop is measured from the connecting edge.

(4) **Separate Spaces.** Countertop spaces separated by rangetops, refrigerators, or sinks shall be considered as separate countertop spaces in applying the requirements of 210.52(C)(1), (C)(2), and (C)(3).

(5) **Receptacle Outlet Location.** Receptacle outlets shall be located above, but not more than 500 mm (20 inches) above, the countertop. Receptacle outlets rendered not readily accessible by appliances fastened in place, appliance garages, sinks, or rangetops as covered in 210.52(C)(1), Exception, or appliances occupying dedicated space shall not be considered as these required outlets.

Please see page 2 for exceptions to (5) Receptacle Outlet Location.

Range, counter-mounted cooking unit extending from face of counter



Range, counter-mounted cooking unit mounted in the corner

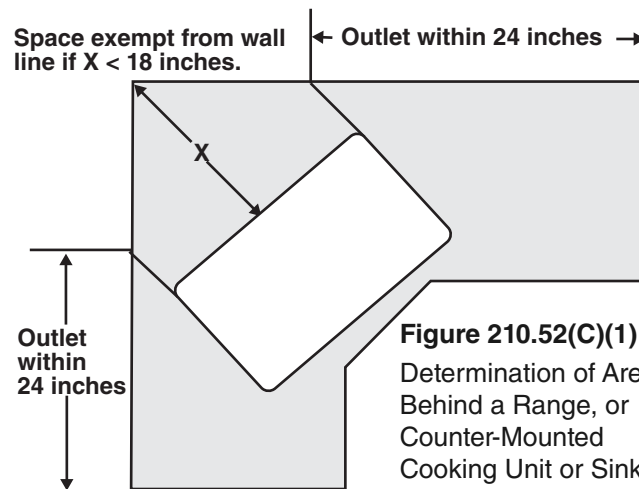


Figure 210.52(C)(1)
Determination of Area
Behind a Range, or
Counter-Mounted
Cooking Unit or Sink.

Exception to (5): To comply with the conditions specified in (1) or (2), receptacle outlets shall be permitted to be mounted not more than 300 mm (12 inches) below the countertop. Receptacles mounted below a countertop in accordance with this exception shall not be located where the countertop extends more than 150 mm (6 inches) beyond its support base.

- (1) Construction for the physically impaired
- (2) On island and peninsular countertops where the countertop is flat across its entire surface (no backsplashes, dividers, etc.) and there are no means to mount a receptacle within 500 mm (20 inches) above the countertop, such as an

This information is a guide to the most common questions. It is not intended, nor shall it be considered, a complete set of requirements.